

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-03 L-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 SPC-01

SAM-01 PRS-01 TRSE-00 H-01 AID-10 OMB-01 DRC-01 AGR-03

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P 160436Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1118

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 1821

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, US RP

SUBJECT: LAUREL LANGLEY - STATUS OF PHILIPPINE PREPARATIONS FOR
TALKS

REF: MANILA 1791

1. FIN SEC VIRATA INFORMED ECON COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR
FEB 16 THAT L-L CABINET COMMITTEE MEETING MENTIONED
REFTEL OCCURRED AS SCHEDULED, BUT MAIN FOCUS OF DIS-
CUSSION WAS A PROPOSAL TO CREATE A GOVERNMENT HOLDING
COMPANY TO DEAL WITH LAND HOLDINGS AFTER JULY 3, 1974.
VIRATA SAID THOUGHT NOW BEING GIVEN TO ISSUING A
DECREE WHICH IN FIRST INSTANCE WOULD CREATE NEW GOVERN-
MENT ENTITY TO TAKE US CORPORATE LAND IN TRUST UNTIL
SUCH TIME AS SUITABLE DISPOSAL MIGHT BE MADE. ULTIMATE
PURPOSE OF SUCH ENTITY, VIRATA SUGGESTS, WOULD BE TO
ACT PERHAPS AS THE HOLDING COMPANY FOR LANDS NEEDED
BY ALL FOREIGN USERS; ENTITY TO BE CREATED POSSIBLY
IN THE FORM OF AN INDUSTRIAL OR AGRICULTURAL ESTATE
TRUST.

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2. WE ARE NOT COMMENTING ON THE SPECIFIC MERITS OF

THIS SCHEME (IT IS ONE PROPOSED MUCH EARLIER BY
VIRATA) BUT WE ARE STATING STRONG VIEW THAT
PUTTING OUT SUCH A DECREE BEFORE ANY SERIOUS TALKS
ARE HELD CAN ONLY BE MISCONSTRUED WITH POSSIBLY
SEVERE EFFECT ON ATTITUDES OF US BUSINESSMEN AND LIKELY
VERY ADVERSE CONGRESSIONAL REACTION.

3. WE DO NOT SEE REAL PROSPECT OF HEADING THIS OFF
EXCEPT BY TOP LEVEL TALK. ACCORDINGLY WE VIGOROUSLY
PURSUING EFFORT TO ARRANGE TALK WITH PRESIDENT. WE
ARE NOT SANGUINE AT MOMENT ABOUT AN EARLY MEETING,
HOWEVER, BECAUSE MALACANANG FULLY
OCCUPIED WITH VISIT JUAN CARLOS UNTIL MID-WEEK.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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